

MARVEL<sup>®</sup>  
COMICS



FEB  
#5

THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF AVENGERS!

# A NEXT

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY



STEP ASIDE,  
AVENGER!

NOT  
A CHANCE,  
AMERICAN  
DREAM!

I WON'T  
ALLOW YOU  
TO HARM  
DOCTOR  
DOOM!

**STINGER**™ TAKES **DREAM**™  
ON THE **TEAM**  
(PLUS A DON'T BLINK GUEST-  
APPEARANCE BY THE  
FANTASTIC FIVE!)

DEFALCO

FRENZ

WILLIAMSON



PROLOGUE: IN THE RUINS OF DOOMSTADT, THE FORMER CAPITAL OF THE BALKAN NATION KNOWN AS LATVERIA.

WHAT A MESS--!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT TWO MEN CAUSED ALL THIS DESTRUCTION.

NOT WHEN YOU KNOW THE MEN! WE'RE JUST LUCKY THEY CONFINED THEIR BATTLE TO LATVERIA.

BUT WE'RE NOT HERE TO SEE THE SIGHTS, THERE'S A KID MISSING, AND IT'S OUR JOB TO FIND HER.

HOW COULD A LITTLE GIRL GET PAST OUR PERIMETER GUARDS?

I'VE GOT A TWO YEAR OLD BACK HOME WHO COULD GIVE DAVID COPPERFIELD LESSONS, AND--

SOMETHING'S MOVING IN THOSE SHADOWS!

HOLY--!

WHERE'D THESE BLASTED ROBOTS COME FROM?

YOU'RE ASKING ME?!

FALL BACK, MAN! FALL BACK! WE GOTTA RETREAT!

W-WHAT ABOUT THE KID?

WE CAN'T HELP HER IF WE'RE DEAD! MOVE IT, MISTER! WE HAVE TO WARN SHIELD ABOUT THESE ROBOTS, AND--

LOOK! THERE'S A FIGURE ON THAT DISTANT RAMPART--!

OHMIGOSH! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

I-IT'S HIM!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS... HE'S BACK!

HE'S FINALLY BACK!



A FEW DAYS LATER IN THE NEW YORK CITY HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES...

WHAT'S WITH YOU, 'STRIKE?

I BECAME AN AVENGER TO AVOID HOMEWORK, BUT YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING THOSE FILES LIKE THERE'S NO--HEY!

IS THAT YOUR DAD--THE ORIGINAL THUNDERSTRIKE?!

YEAH.

I'VE BEEN HAUNTED ABOUT SOMETHING EVER SINCE WE FOUGHT THE SOLDIERS OF THE SERPENT.\*

THEIR LEADER SEEMED TO KNOW MY FATHER, BUT I CAN'T FIND ANY CASE WHERE THEY MIGHT HAVE MET.

\*AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE!

FORGET ABOUT IT! THE GUY WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO PSYCHE YOU!

LET'S FIND CASSIE, AND START CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS.

IN A NEARBY CORRIDOR...

STINGER! EXCUSE ME... STINGER! I HATE TO BOTHER YOU, BUT I WAS HOPING YOU COULD SHOW ME HOW TO FILE MY REPORT ON OUR BATTLE WITH THE SERPENT GUYS.

WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR GOOD BUDDY, MAIN-FRAME? I DOUBT HE CONSIDERS OUR FORMATING POLICIES A SECRET.

YOU CAN HAVE HIM AFTER I'M THROUGH WITH HIM.

OH...

I...

OKAY.

I'M BUSY, AMERICAN DREAM...

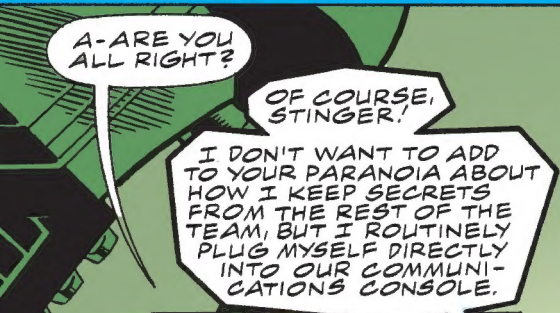




MAINFRAME!  
ARE YOU IN  
HERE? WE NEED  
TO TALK,  
AND--

Oh!

# The GIFT



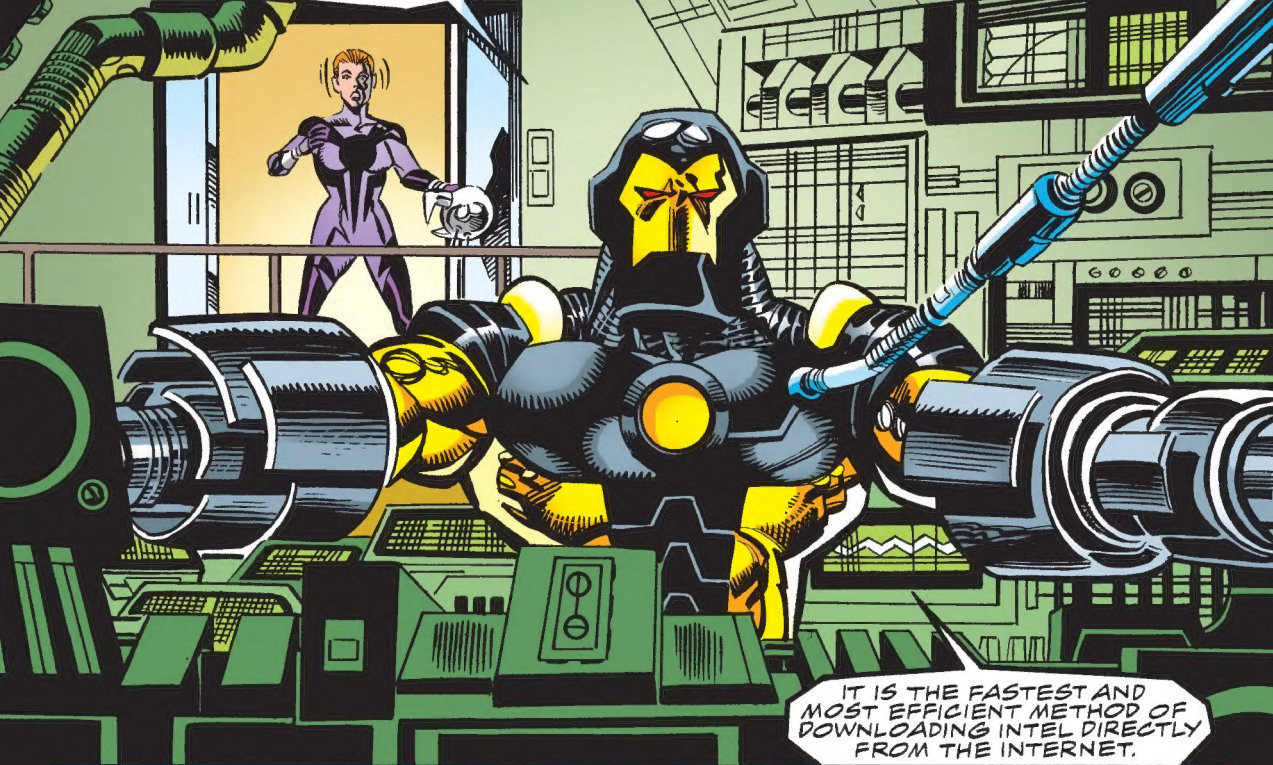
A-ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?

OF COURSE,  
STINGER!

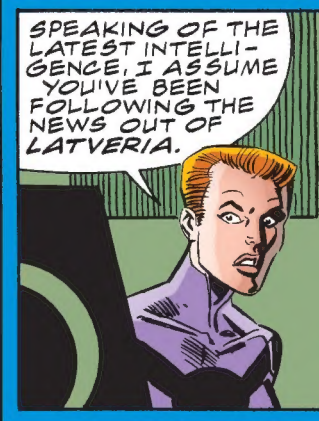
I DON'T WANT TO ADD  
TO YOUR PARANOIA ABOUT  
HOW I KEEP SECRETS  
FROM THE REST OF THE  
TEAM, BUT I ROUTINELY  
PLUG MYSELF DIRECTLY  
INTO OUR COMMUNI-  
CATIONS CONSOLE.

STAN LEE PRESENTS A SPECIAL HOLIDAY TALE  
STARRING THE MEMBERS OF A-NEXT...

TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ AL MILGROM  
WORDS/PLOT/LAYOUTS FINISHES  
JIM NOVAK BOB SHAREN  
CALLIGRAPHY COLOR ARTIST  
BOB HARRAS - HUMBUG IN CHIEF



IT IS THE FASTEST AND  
MOST EFFICIENT METHOD OF  
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FROM THE INTERNET.

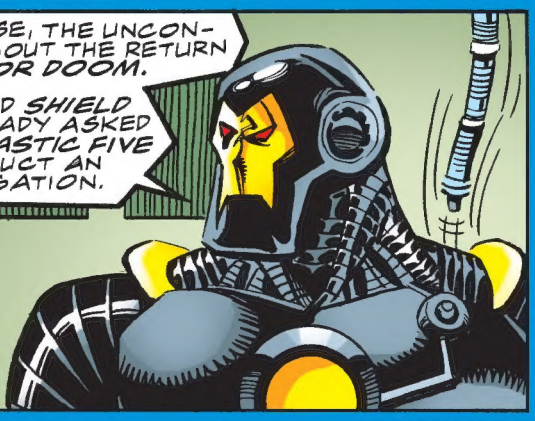


SPEAKING OF THE  
LATEST INTELLI-  
GENCE, I ASSUME  
YOU'VE BEEN  
FOLLOWING THE  
NEWS OUT OF  
LATVERIA.



YOU MEAN, OF COURSE, THE UNCON-  
FIRMED REPORTS ABOUT THE RETURN  
OF DOCTOR DOOM.

THE U.N. AND SHIELD  
HAVE ALREADY ASKED  
THE FANTASTIC FIVE  
TO CONDUCT AN  
INVESTIGATION.





WHY'D THE F5 GET THE  
NOD INSTEAD OF US?

PERHAPS BECAUSE  
THEY'RE MORE ESTAB-  
LISHED, AND HAVE MORE  
EXPERIENCE WITH  
**DOOM.**

THINK I  
CAN TAG  
ALONG?

TALK TO THEM! YOUR FATHER IS ABOUT TO CONTACT THEM.

THEY HEARD ABOUT OUR  
RECENT RUN-IN WITH THE  
**SUB-MARINER**, AND  
ASKED FOR AN  
UPDATE.

Y-YOU'RE  
NOT EVEN  
CURIOUS  
ABOUT MY  
REASONS..  
ARE YOU?

UNLIKE  
SOME  
PEOPLE--

"--I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESPECT EACH OTHER'S PRIVACY."

I'M UPLOADING OUR RE-  
PORTS NOW, JOHNNY.  
WAIT UNTIL YOU GET TO  
THE PART WHERE CASSIE  
TAKES ON THE HULK.

CAN YOU BELIEVE SHE'S  
THE SAME LITTLE GIRL  
WHO USED TO SLEEP WITH  
A BARNEY  
DOLL?

THERE MUST BE  
SOMETHING IN THE  
WATER, SCOTTY--

--I JUST HAD A SIMILAR CONVERSATION WITH ANOTHER FRIEND OF MINE.

HANG  
ON A  
SEC!

COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN,  
GUYS? I'M ON THE PHONE.

MY TELEKINESIS WILL HELP  
LIGHTEN YOUR LOAD, UNCLE  
BEN.

DON'T  
STRAIN  
YOURSELF  
PSI-LORD

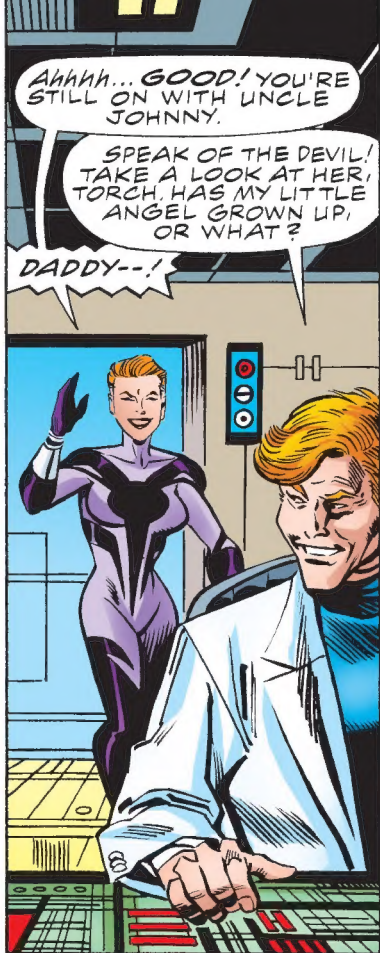
CAREFUL, THING,  
THAT GENERATOR IS  
VERY DELICATE.

YEAH!  
YEAH! SO'S  
MY BACK,  
BIG  
BRAIN--

--AND MS. FANTASTIC'S ONLY WORRIED ABOUT FRANKLIN STRAINING HIMSELF!

**SHEEESH!**





AHHHH... **GOOD!** YOU'RE STILL ON WITH UNCLE JOHNNY.

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL! TAKE A LOOK AT HER, TORCH, HAS MY LITTLE ANGEL GROWN UP, OR WHAT?

DADDY--!

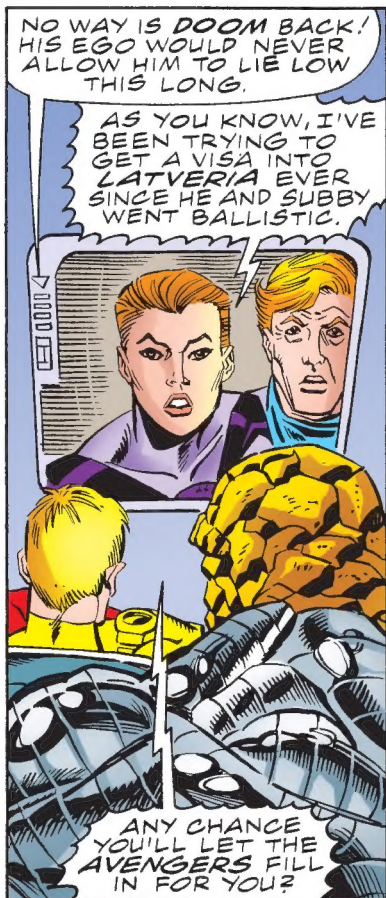


I RECOGNIZE THAT DIS-APPROVIN' SHRIEK. HEY, PUN'KIN, WHAT'S SHAKIN'?

HI, BEN! I UNDERSTAND YOU GUYS ARE HEADED FOR LATVERIA.

FOR NO GOOD REASON IF YOU ASK ME.

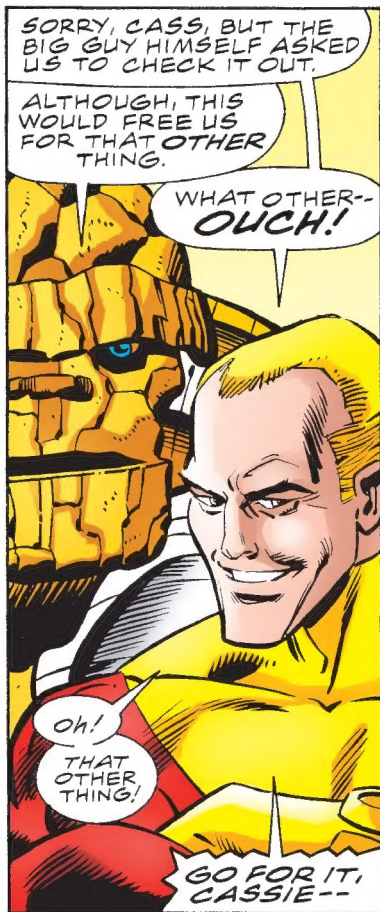
SOME GRUNT MUST HAVE BEEN SPOOKED BY HIS OWN SHADOW.



NO WAY IS **DOOM** BACK! HIS EGO WOULD NEVER ALLOW HIM TO LIE LOW THIS LONG.

AS YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET A VISA INTO **LATVERIA** EVER SINCE HE AND SUBBY WENT BALLISTIC.

ANY CHANCE YOU'LL LET THE AVENGERS FILL IN FOR YOU?



SORRY, CASS, BUT THE BIG GUY HIMSELF ASKED US TO CHECK IT OUT.

ALTHOUGH, THIS WOULD FREE US FOR THAT OTHER THING.

WHAT OTHER-OUCH!

Oh!  
THAT OTHER THING!

GO FOR IT, CASSIE--

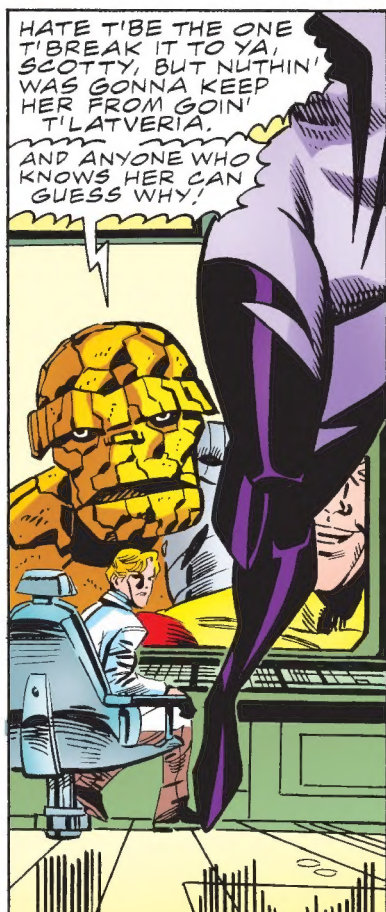


--YOU'D ACTUALLY BE DOING US A FAVOR! I'LL CLEAR IT WITH THE U.N.!

THANKS, GUYS! I...Uhhh... JUST THANKS!

EXCUSE ME, BUT...HUH?!

W-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?



HATE T'BE THE ONE T'BREAK IT TO YA, SCOTTY, BUT NUTHIN' WAS GONNA KEEP HER FROM GOIN' T'LATVERIA.

AND ANYONE WHO KNOWS HER CAN GUESS WHY!



THUNDERSTRIKE! JUGGIE!  
SADDLE UP, BOYS! I'VE GOT  
A MISSION FOR US, AND--

Oh!

I-IT'S...  
YOU!

YOU KNOW,  
STINGER... IT'S  
GETTING HARDER  
AND HARDER FOR  
ME TO IGNORE  
THESE CUTE  
LITTLE COMMENTS  
AND NOT  
TAKE THEM  
PERSONALLY.

PERSONAL CAN  
BE GOOD.

VERY GOOD!

HUSH,  
FREEBOOTER! I  
AGREE WITH  
AMERICAN  
DREAM!

SO DO I,  
CRIMSON CURSE! I  
MEAN... WHAT'D WE  
EVER DO TO HER?!

WE'RE  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
TEAMMATES,  
Y'KNOW?!

AND YOU WILL  
SOON GET A  
CHANCE TO PROVE  
IT. YOU'RE ALL  
GOING TO  
LATVERIA.

B-BUT WHERE ARE  
STRIKE AND J2?

OFF  
CELEBRATING THE  
HOLIDAYS! I DIDN'T  
KNOW ABOUT THIS  
MISSION AND SENT  
THEM HOME.

--SINCE OUR GOVERNMENT  
WILL ONLY APPROVE US IF  
AMERICAN DREAM  
GOES ALONG.

B-BUT--

IT'S NON-  
NEGOTIABLE,  
STINGER.  
YOU IN OR  
OUT?

THEY AREN'T  
NECESSARY,  
ANYWAY--



AND SO...

I'M STILL SURPRISED  
MAINFRAME DECIDED TO  
STAY BEHIND.

I THINK HE HAD A WEIRD  
NOTION THAT WE'D BOND  
BETTER WITHOUT HIM.

LOOK, AMERICAN DREAM,  
I HONESTLY DIDN'T MEAN TO  
OFFEND YOU.

I'VE JUST HAD MORE  
EXPERIENCE WITH **STRIKE**  
AND **JUGGIE**, AND KNOW WHAT  
TO EXPECT FROM THEM.

AND YOU'RE  
STILL NOT SURE  
YOU CAN DEPEND  
ON ME!

OOOOKAY! NO  
REASON FOR ME TO  
TAKE THAT PERSONAL!

YOU REALLY THINK IT'S  
DOC DOOM? JUST THINK  
WHAT THIS'LL MEAN TO  
OUR REPS!

HELLO  
ENDORSEMENTS!

DON'T SPEND THE  
MONEY UNTIL AFTER  
WE CAPTURE HIM.

AND THERE IS A  
LITTLE GIRL  
WHO'S STILL  
MISSING!

C'MON, DREAM! GIVE ME A  
BREAK. THIS MISSION IS VERY  
IMPORTANT TO ME.

CARE TO  
SHARE WHY?

SURE, I OWE  
YOU THAT MUCH...

AS YOU MAY  
KNOW, MY FATH-  
ER AND I  
LIVED FOR A  
BRIEF TIME  
WITH THE FAN-  
TASTIC FI--  
LAHH-- FOUR  
AS IT WAS  
CALLED IN  
THOSE DAYS.

SO DID  
KRISTOFF  
VERNARD, A  
YOUNG BOY  
WHO WAS THE  
WARD OF  
DOCTOR  
DOOM.

"A GENIUS IN HIS  
OWN RIGHT, WE GREW  
RATHER... CLOSE...  
OVER THE YEARS."

"HE RETURNED TO HIS  
HOMELAND WHEN HE  
HEARD A WAR WAS BREW-  
ING BETWEEN DOOM  
AND SUB-MARINER.

"YOU KNOW  
WHAT HAP-  
PENED NEXT..."

"CAUGHT BETWEEN  
THEM, LATVERIA WAS  
VIRTUALLY DEVASTATED  
WHILE THOSE TWO  
MANIACS TRIED TO KILL  
EACH OTHER.

"DOOM WENT M.I.A.,  
AND THE POOR  
COUNTRY'S BEEN A  
POLITICAL FOOTBALL  
EVER SINCE--"

"--AND I STILL  
HAVEN'T HEARD  
FROM KRISTOFF."



MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE  
GOOD OL' U.S. OF A....

HI, POP!

SORRY I HAVEN'T  
VISITED BEFORE NOW.

THINGS HAVE  
BEEN...WELL...  
INTERESTING.

ERIC KEVIN  
MASTERSON

BELOVED  
FATHER

THE WORLD  
STILL NEEDS  
HEROES

OH, MAAA-ANN!  
WHAT AM I DOING  
HERE? DOES STRIKE  
WANT TO BE ALONE?

B-BUT HOW CAN I  
JUST WALK OFF WHEN  
HE LOOKS SO DOWN?!

I... I WANT  
TO MAKE  
YOU PROUD  
OF ME, POP.

I'M TRYING SO HARD  
TO BE THE KIND OF MAN  
YOU WERE...UNTIL THE  
END.

BUT LIFE AS AN  
AVENGER CAN BE REAL  
SCARY AT TIMES.  
HECK, MAKE THAT  
ALL THE TIME.

ON THE PLUS  
SIDE, I'VE  
HELPED SAVE  
SOME LIVES--

--AND I'M  
SURROUNDED BY  
PEOPLE I CAN  
ALWAYS COUNT ON!

OOPS!

SORRY TO...UHAAA  
...DISTURB YOU, STRIKE  
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE  
I RAN OUT OF J2  
JUICE, AGAIN.

I... I  
GUESS  
I  
SHOULD  
GO.

NOT SO FAST,  
ZANE. WAIT WHILE  
I SAY MY MAGIC  
WORD--

THUNDER-  
STRIKE!

BOOM!

--AND WOULD  
NOW LIKE TO  
SPEND SOME  
TIME WITH MY  
FRIEND.

Y-YOU  
MEAN  
ME--?!

YEAH,  
ZANE  
SIGHES  
LET'S  
SCORE A  
PIZZA!

COOL!

I'VE  
ALREADY  
VISITED  
WITH MY  
DAD--





SOMETIME LATER,  
IN THE CITY OF  
DOOMSTADT...

THIS POOR LAND  
HAS KNOWN SO  
MUCH PAIN, SO  
MUCH SORROW.

THE U.N. HAS BEEN  
BICKERING OVER IT  
FOR YEARS, DEBATING  
THE BEST WAY TO  
REBUILD.

NICE PLACE  
TO SPEND  
CHRISTMAS.

LET'S STAY  
FOCUSED ON THE  
JOB, PEOPLE!

ACCORDING TO OUR  
BRIEFING, WE'RE ABOUT  
TO ENTER THE AREA  
WHERE THE SOLDIERS  
ENGAGED THE  
DOOMBOTS.

IF THAT MISSING CHILD IS STILL  
ALIVE, MY GUESS IS SHE'S  
HOLED UP IN CASTLE DOOM  
...WHICH, THANKS TO THE  
POLITICIANS, IS EVEN OFF-  
LIMITS TO SHIELD!

LET'S ALL STAY TOGETHER, AND  
KEEP LOW. WE HAVE NO WAY OF  
KNOWING WHAT KIND OF BOOBY-  
TRAPS ARE STILL ACTIVE.

WITH A LITTLE  
LUCK--

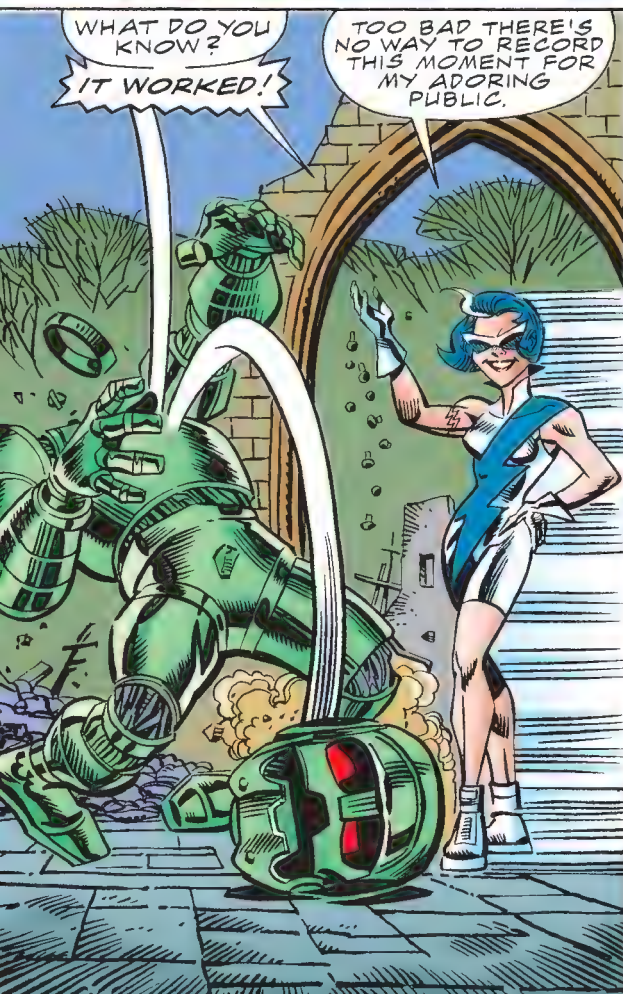
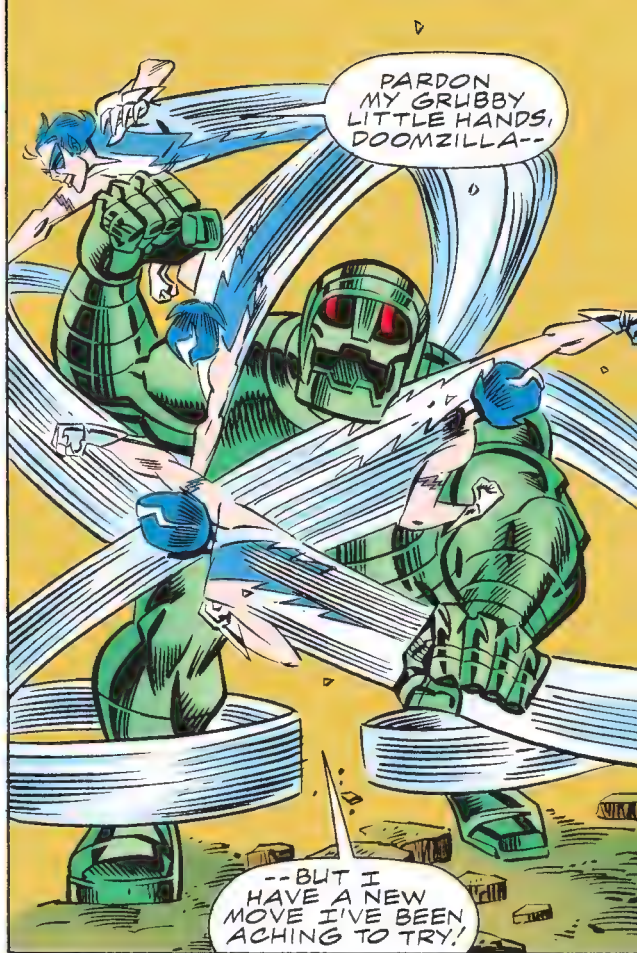
KA-BAAAASSHH!

BRO-THERRRR!  
I REALLY HAVE  
TO STOP USING  
THAT WORD.

OKAY, PEOPLE...  
IT'S TIME TO  
MAKE LIKE  
HEROES!

AVENGERS  
ASSEMBLE!

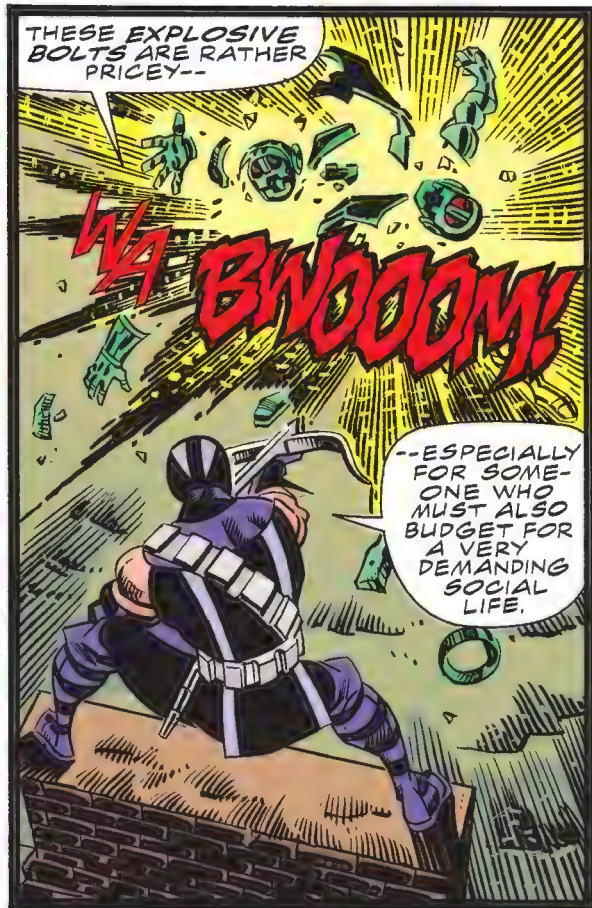








HOWEVER, I AM EVER SO APPRECIATIVE OF THE WAY YOU'RE GROUPED SO TIGHTLY TOGETHER.



THESE EXPLOSIVE BOLTS ARE RATHER PRICEY--

--ESPECIALLY FOR SOMEONE WHO MUST ALSO BUDGET FOR A VERY DEMANDING SOCIAL LIFE.

I HATE TO SPOIL EVERYONE'S FUN, BUT THERE'S NO REAL NEED TO CONTINUE THIS BATTLE.

NOT WHEN OUR FOES CAN BE DISPATCHED SO EASILY--



WHAT THE-- HEY?!?

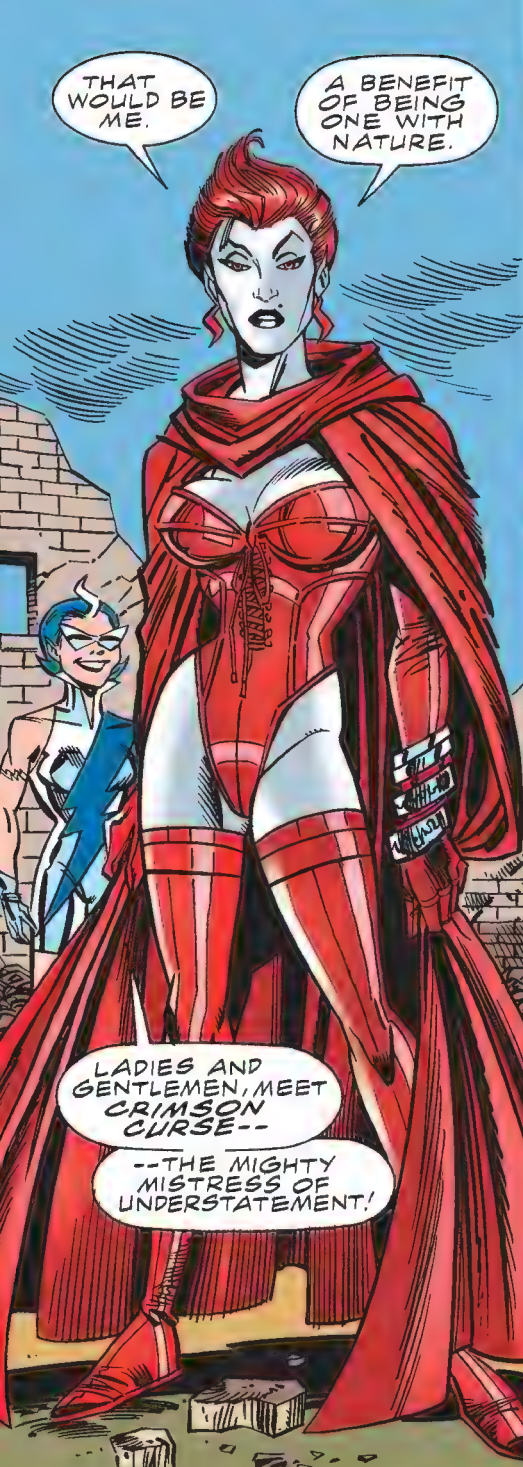
THE REST OF THE DOOMBOTS WERE TORN APART AND WHISKED OFF BY A HURRICANE-LIKE WIND!

B-BUT... HOW?!

WHO--?!





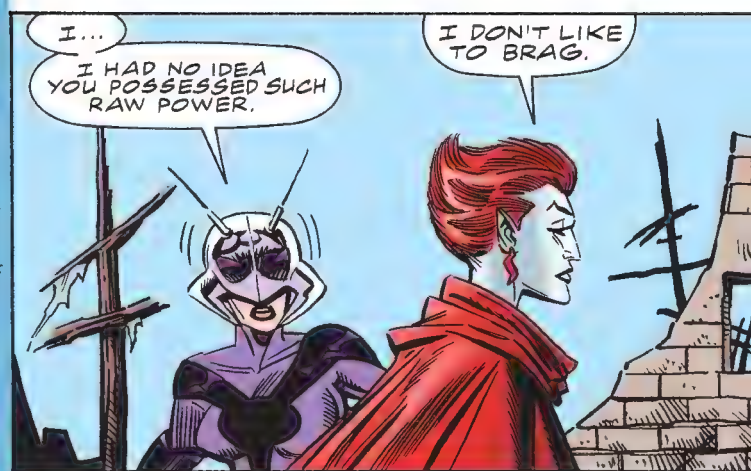


THAT WOULD BE ME.

A BENEFIT OF BEING ONE WITH NATURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MEET CRIMSON CURSE--

--THE MIGHTY MISTRESS OF UNDERSTATEMENT!



I...

I HAD NO IDEA YOU POSSESSED SUCH RAW POWER.

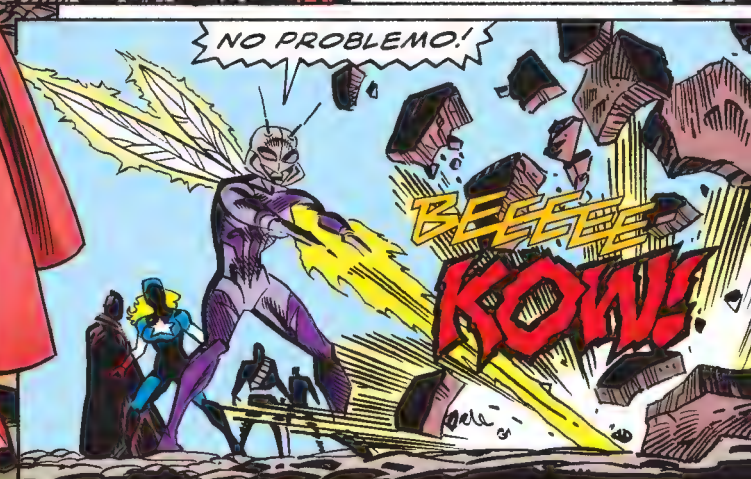
I DON'T LIKE TO BRAG.



BY THE WAY, THERE MAY BE A MORE EXPEDIENT WAY TO ENTER THE CASTLE.

THE ROOTS OF THIS TREE TELL OF A NETWORK OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS BENEATH OUR VERY FEET.

IF ONLY WE COULD FIND ITS ENTRANCE--



NO PROBLEMO!

BEEEEEE  
KOW!

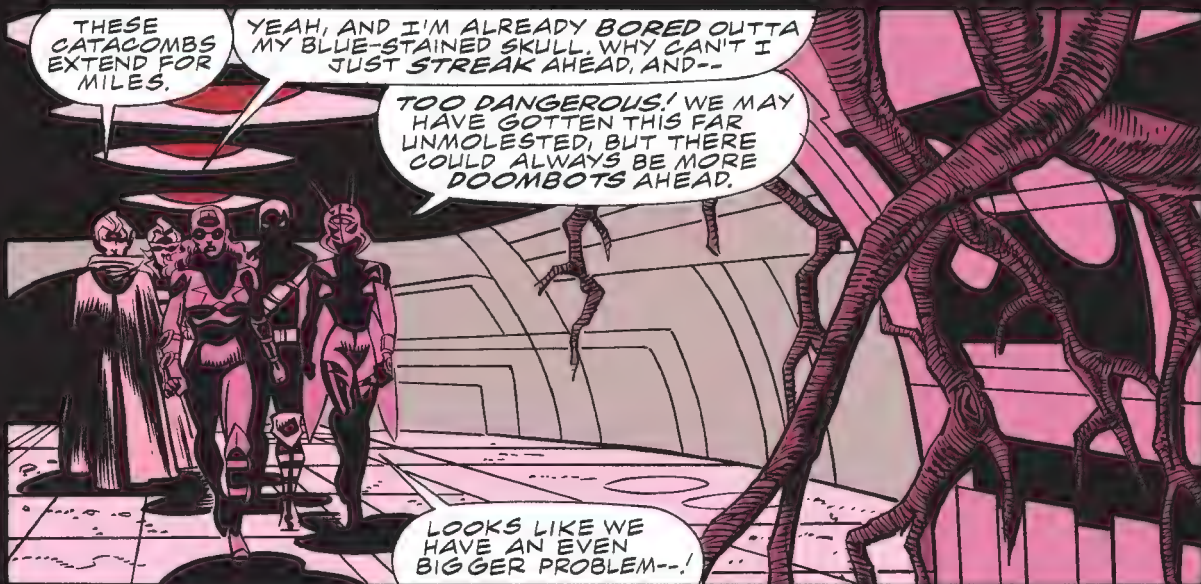


I...WE...DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

THAT'S SURPRISING!

I LOVE TO BRAG!





THESE CATACOMBS EXTEND FOR MILES.

YEAH, AND I'M ALREADY BORED OUTTA MY BLUE-STAINED SKULL. WHY CAN'T I JUST STREAK AHEAD, AND--

TOO DANGEROUS! WE MAY HAVE GOTTEN THIS FAR UNMOLESTED, BUT THERE COULD ALWAYS BE MORE DOOMBOTS AHEAD.

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM--!

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, DREAM.

HHMMM! I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE THROUGH THIS DEBRIS, BUT THE REST OF YOU WILL HAVE TO DOUBLE-BACK TO THE LAST JUNCTURE, AND CIRCLE AROUND TO THE CASTLE.

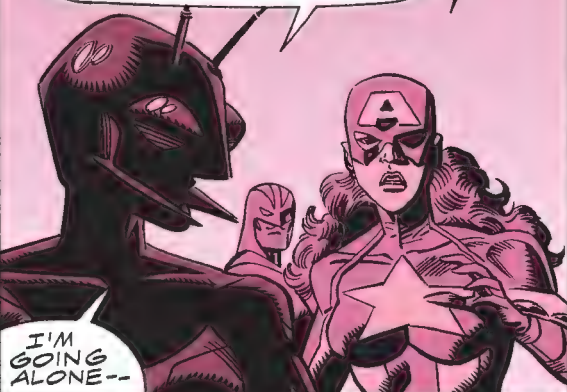
EXCUSSSSSSE ME--?!



YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, HONEY?

DO THE WORDS TOO DANGEROUS AND DOOMBOTS RING ANY BELLS?

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED THERE'S A WORLD OF EXPERIENCE SEPARATING BLUESTREAK FROM ME.



I'M GOING ALONE--

--BECAUSE I DOUBT ANY OF YOU CAN FOLLOW ME!

OR AM I WRONG?

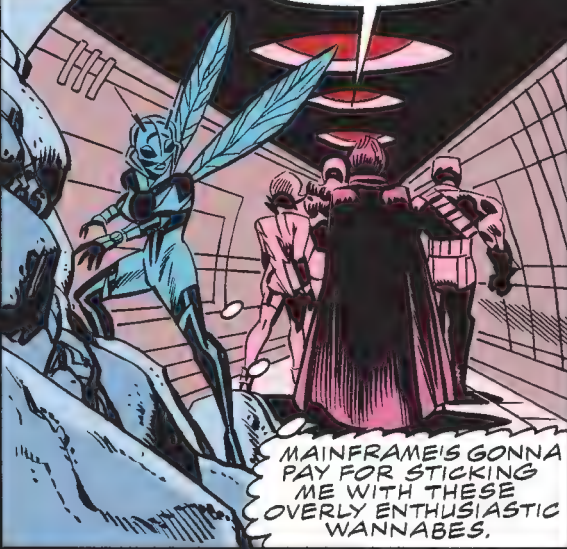
LISTEN, STINGER, THIS IS NO TIME FOR--



YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, AMERICAN DREAM.

FINE! PLAY THE LONE WOLF!

WE'LL CATCH UP TO YOU LATER, HONEY!



MAINFRAME'S GONNA PAY FOR STICKING ME WITH THESE OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC WANNABES.



MEAN-  
WHILE...

WOW! THIS PLACE IS GREAT! IT MUST  
BE WILD TO HAVE YOUR OWN APARTMENT  
AND BE IN COLLEGE.

AND THIS  
STUNTMASTER  
POSTER IS TOO  
COOL!

HE'S STILL LOS  
ANGELES'S MAIN  
SUPER-GUY.

I'M GONNA FEED  
ALEX WHILE THE  
PIZZA'S WARMING.

MARRROOOWWW!

SURE!  
CAT'S  
GOTTA  
EAT,  
TOO!

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE  
UNOPENED MAIL, DUDE,  
AND-- HEY!

IS THIS THE  
BOBBY  
STEELE?!

YEAH, HE'S MY  
STEFFATHER.

WE WEREN'T EXACTLY ON  
THE BEST OF TERMS WHEN  
I LEFT. HE NEVER UNDER-  
STOOD MY DESIRE TO  
STUDY ART.

SEEMS LIKE A WASTE,  
Y'KNOW?

W-WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN?

I STILL  
DREAM ABOUT  
HAVIN' A  
DAD IN MY  
LIFE.

YOU  
GOT ONE  
AND  
DON'T  
WANT'IM.

MY POOR  
MOM WAS  
ALWAYS STUCK  
PLAYING  
PEACEMAKER  
WHENEVER  
WE'D KNOCK  
HEADS.

YOU HAD A REAL FATHER  
WHO LOVED YOU, AND NOW  
HAVE A SECOND ONE  
WHO'S AT LEAST TRYING  
TO REACH OUT.

I WISH I  
HAD THAT  
OPTION.

W-WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU DO?

I...I'D GIVE'IM  
A CALL, AND...UMMMM  
...WISH HIM A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

YOU'RE A  
LUCKY GUY,  
KEVIN.



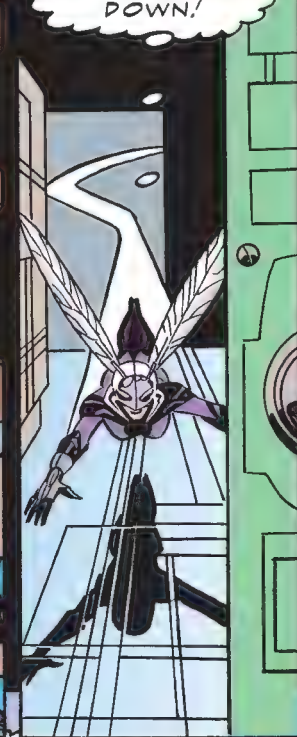
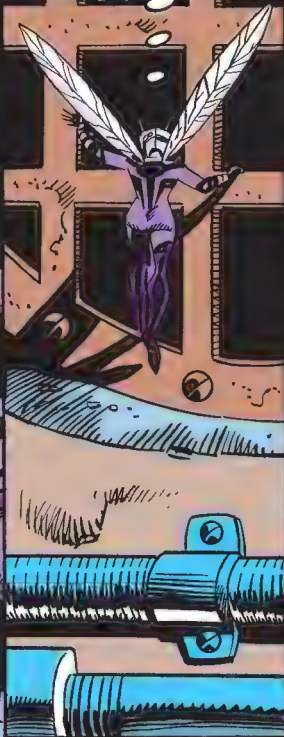
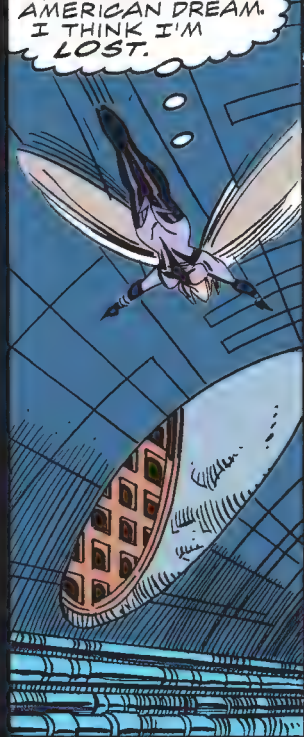
AND, BACK IN  
LATVERIA...

GREAT! JUST  
GREAT! BAD  
ENOUGH I ACTED  
LIKE A SPOILED  
PRINCESS WITH  
AMERICAN DREAM.  
I THINK I'M  
LOST.

I'LL JUST DIE IF  
THE DREAM TEAM  
MAKES IT INTO  
THE CASTLE  
BEFORE--HEY!  
IS THAT REALLY  
A CHILD'S VOICE  
I HEAR?

S-SHE'S  
SINGING...AND  
THE SOUND IS  
BEING CON-  
DUCTED THROUGH  
THESE AIR  
DUCTS.

SHE COULD BE  
ANYWHERE IN  
THE SYSTEM, BUT  
AT LEAST SHE'S  
ALIVE! ALIVE!  
I JUST HAVE  
TO TRACK HER  
DOWN!



---DOCTOR DOOM LIVES!

FOR THE NEXT TWEN-  
TY MINUTES, STINGER  
DESPERATELY SEARCHES  
THE VAST DUCT-  
WORK, AND THEN...

SCORE A BLOW FOR  
PERSEVERANCE, AND  
--UH-OH! SHE ISN'T  
ALONE!



WELL! WELL!  
IT APPEARS THAT  
THE RUMORS OF  
HIS DEATH  
WERE GREATLY  
EXAGGERATED--

THAT WAS A WONDERFUL  
SONG, GRETA...AND YOUR  
ENGLISH IS SUPERB.



THE SOLDIERS AT  
THE RELOCATION CENTER  
TAUGHT ME.

DOES YOUR  
INJURED LEG  
STILL PAIN YOU,  
CHILD?



NO, SIR! YOUR  
MAGICAL MACHINE  
MADE IT ALL BETTER.

Uhhh...  
SIR?



WHAT IS IT, CHILD?

YOU HAVE BEEN SO KIND TO ME. YOU SAVED ME FROM THOSE NASTY ROBOTS AND FIXED MY LEG.

BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS WHY YOU WEAR THAT SCARY MASK.

I USED TO THINK I HAD MY REASONS, LITTLE ONE...

BUT, PERHAPS, IT IS TIME TO PUT ALL MASKS ASIDE...

I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

LEGEND HAS IT THAT DOOM WEARS THAT MASK TO COVER A HIDEOUSLY SCARRED FACE, AND-- DARN! HE'S TWISTING AWAY FROM ME!

I CAN'T SEE HIS FACE FROM THIS ANGLE, BUT I HAVE A HUNCH I DON'T REALLY-- OH, NO!

NO!

NOT NOW!

MOVE AWAY FROM THE CHILD, DOOM!

SHE IS NOW UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE AVENGERS!

HUBBA-HUBBA! WE JUST MOVED INTO HEADLINE CITY!

STAND BACK, CHILD!

IN THEIR HASTE TO SAVE YOU, THESE MISGUIDED FOOLS MAY PROVE TO BE YOUR GREATEST THREAT!



BACK OFF,  
AVENGER!

I WON'T ALLOW  
YOU TO ATTACK!

STINGER?!  
WHAT ARE YOU--  
UH-UHHH!

ZZZAKK!

H-HAVE YOU  
LOST YOUR  
MIND?

I KNOW YOU AND  
DREAM HAVE BEEN  
SHARPENING YOUR  
CLAWS, BUT--

LOCK IN PLACE,  
EVERYONE! I  
KNOW WHAT I'M  
DOING!

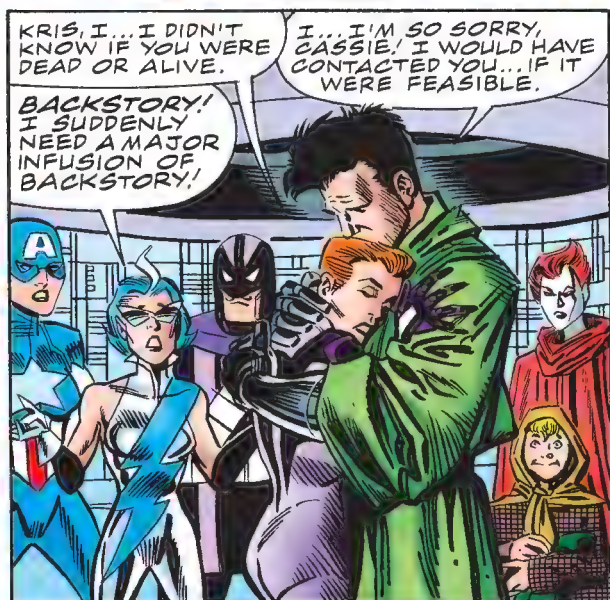
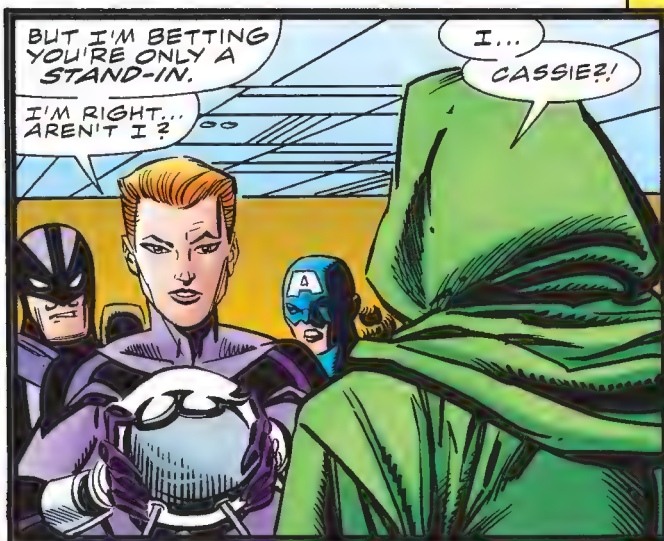
HEY! MAYBE  
DOOM'S  
CONTROLLING  
HER!

WHAT'S  
THE CALL,  
DREAM?

I KNOW YOU ALL THINK  
I'VE GONE CRAZY, AND  
I'D AGREE WITH YOU...  
IF THIS WERE THE REAL  
DOCTOR DOOM!

LET'S... HEAR  
WHAT STINGER  
HAS TO SAY.

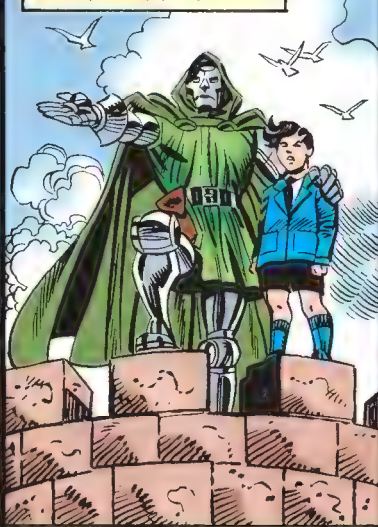






"I SAW SIDES OF HIM THE WORLD NEVER KNEW EXISTED. A WARMTH AND HONOR EVEN HIS ARMOR COULD NOT HIDE--

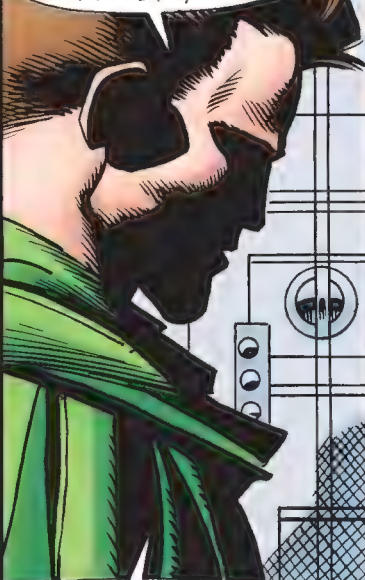
"-- BUT HE TRULY BELIEVED THAT TOTAL AND BLIND OBEDIENCE WAS HIS DUE."



"IT WAS OBVIOUS, EVEN TO ME, THAT HIS ARROGANCE WOULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO THE UTTER RUINATION OF OUR BELOVED HOMELAND."

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE POLITICIANS HAVE NOT RUSHED TO REBUILD LATVERIA?

WHY THEY TWIDDLE THEIR THUMBS, WAITING FOR THE DOOMBOTS TO EXHAUST THEIR POWER?



THEY ALL DESIRE DOOM'S FINAL LEGACY TO THIS WORLD... HIS DEADLY AND UNRIVALED ARSENAL!

BUT I CANNOT... I MUST NOT ALLOW SUCH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS.

W-WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REAL DOOM?



IS HE--?!

UNKNOWN! HE VANISHED WHILE CONFRONTING THE SUB-MARINER.

IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DISPOSE OF HIS NIGHTMARISH WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

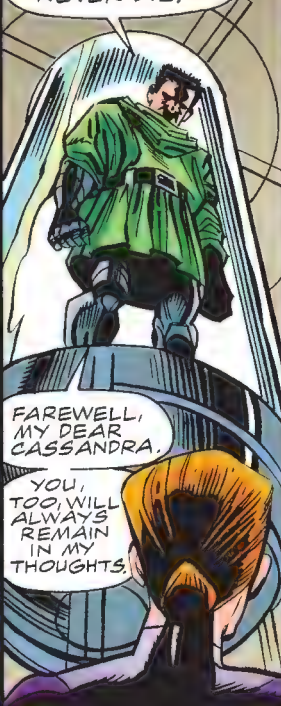
THEY MUST DISAPPEAR... AND SO MUST I!



MY EXISTENCE MUST NEVER BE REVEALED TO THOSE WHO WOULD EVEN ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT DOOM'S TERRIBLE LEGACY.

AS HIS ONLY HEIR, I WAS GIVEN TOTAL ACCESS TO EVERYTHING HE EVER CREATED... OR THOUGHT.

FOR ME DOCTOR DOOM WILL NEVER DIE!

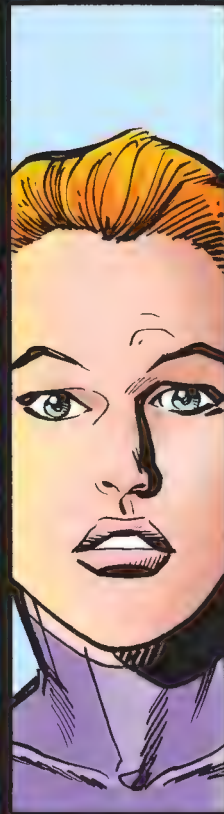
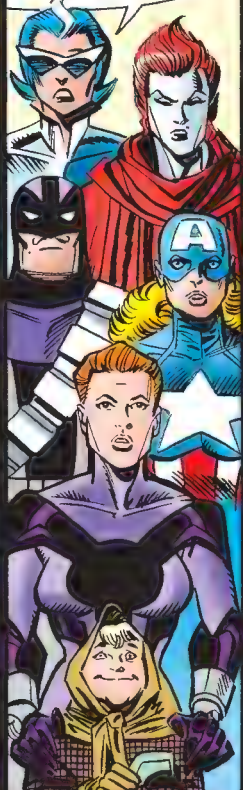


FAREWELL, MY DEAR CASSANDRA.

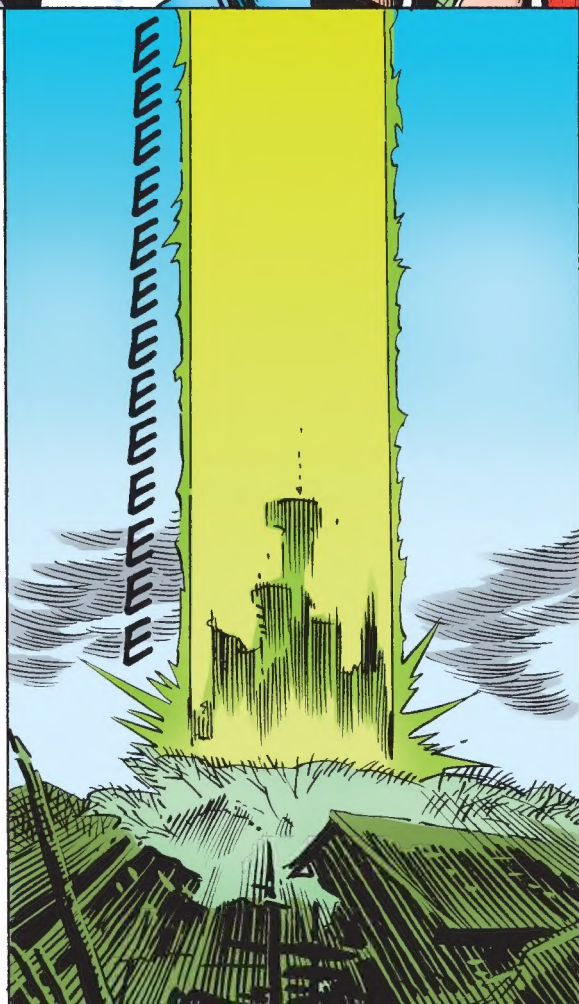
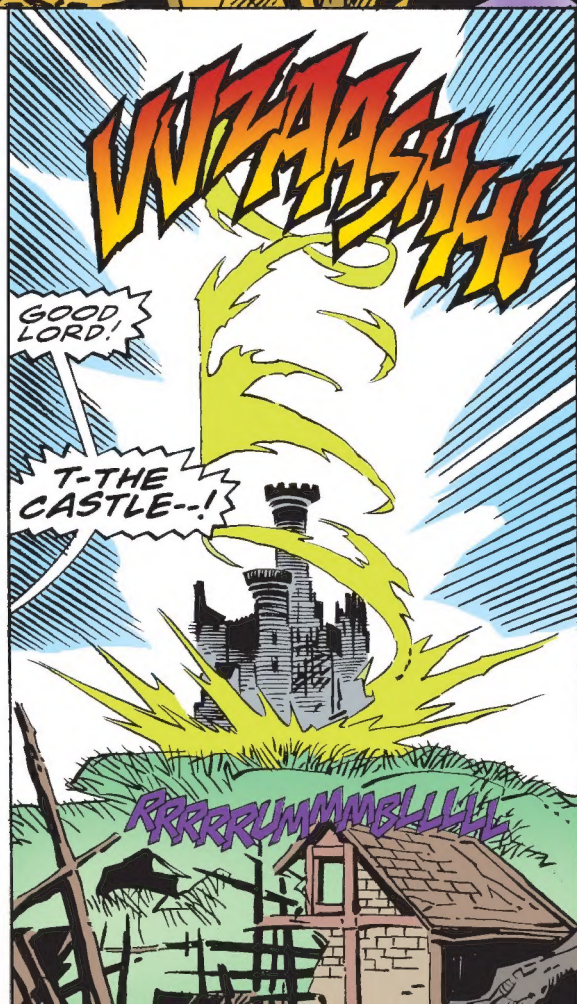
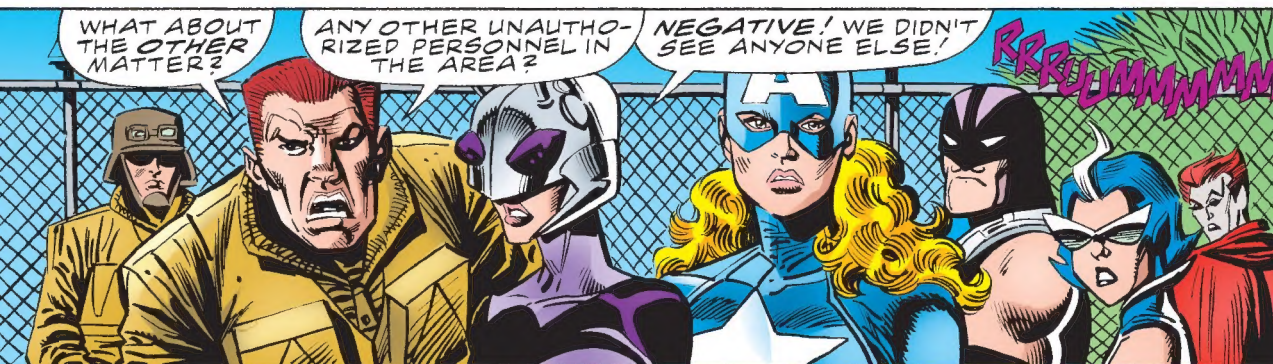
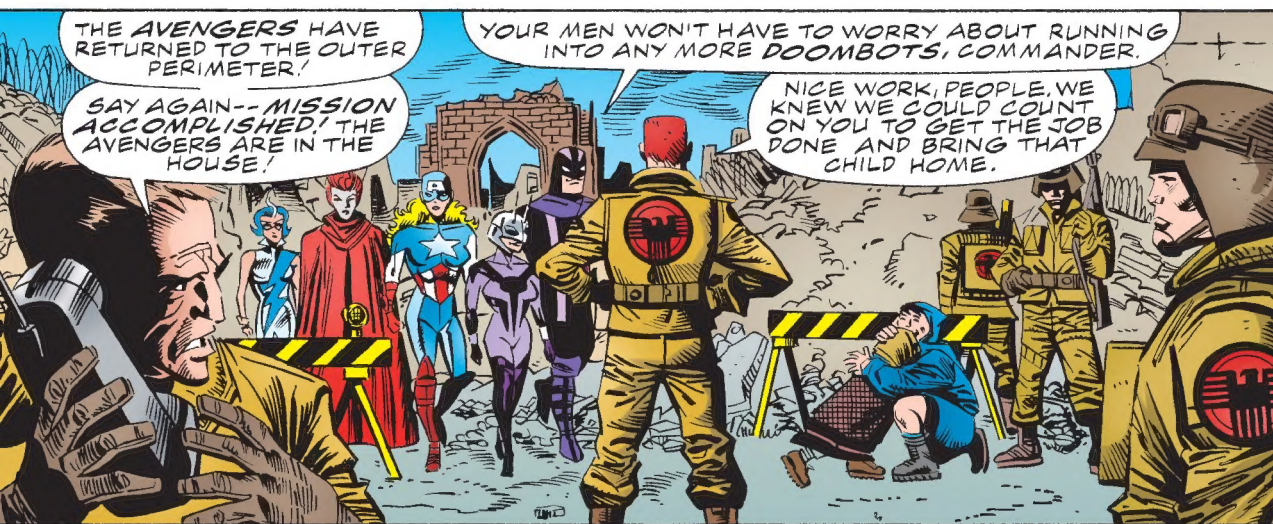
YOU, TOO, WILL ALWAYS REMAIN IN MY THOUGHTS.

SOOOOOOOO...

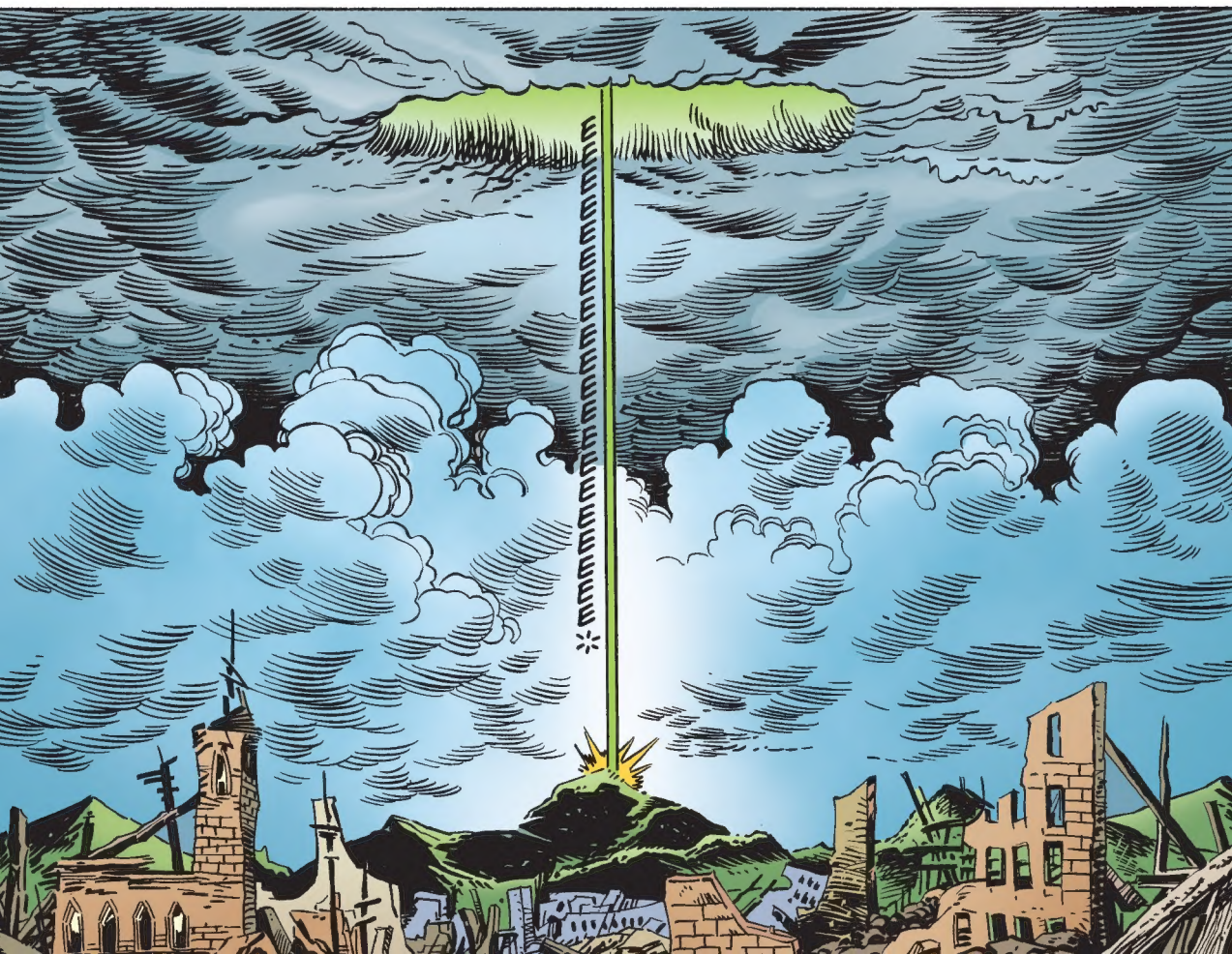
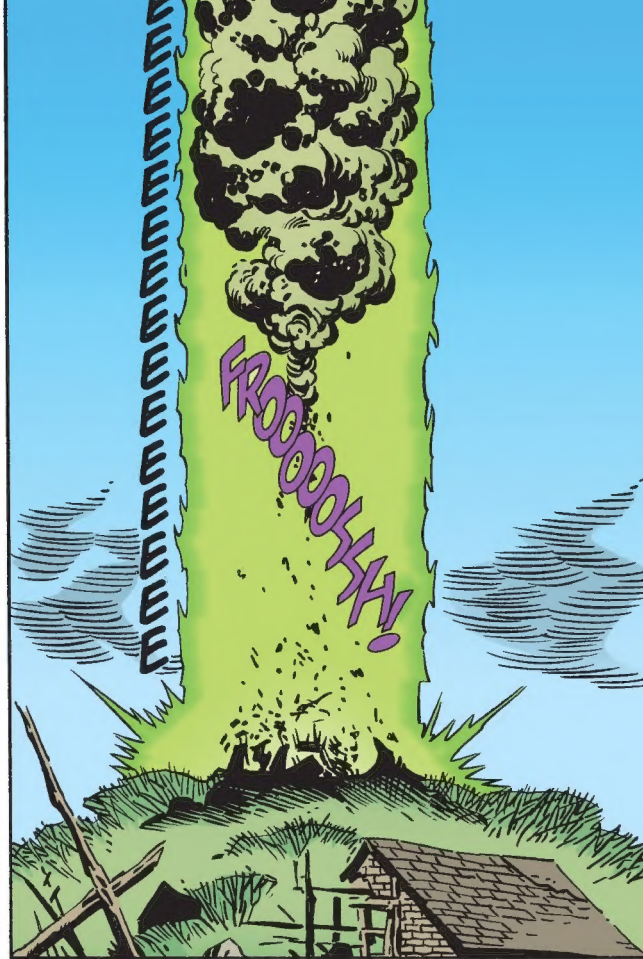
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?



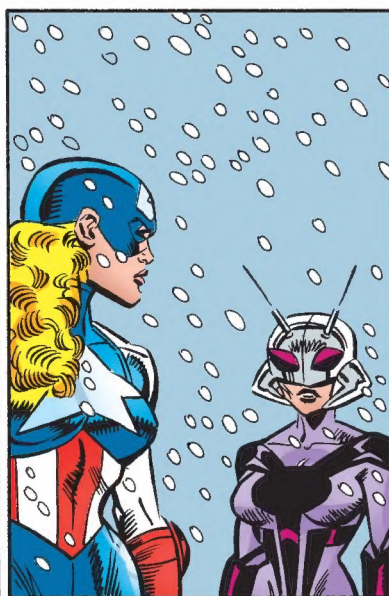
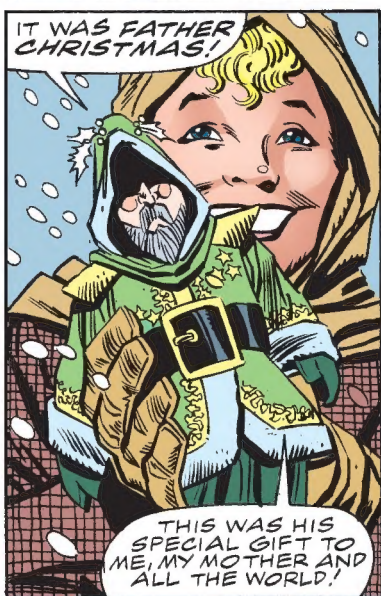
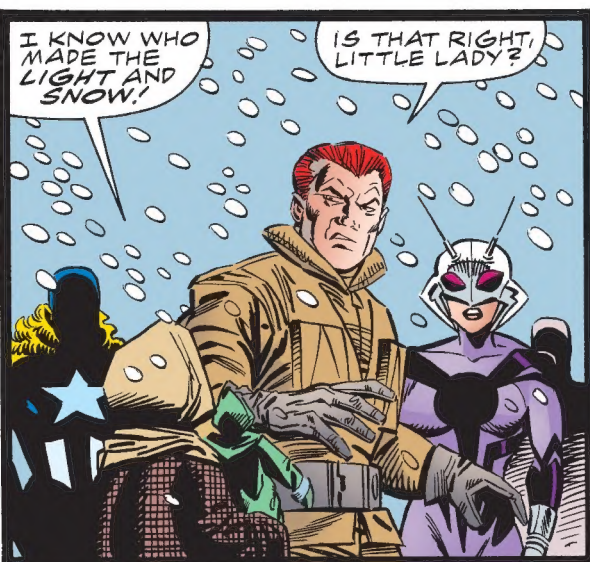
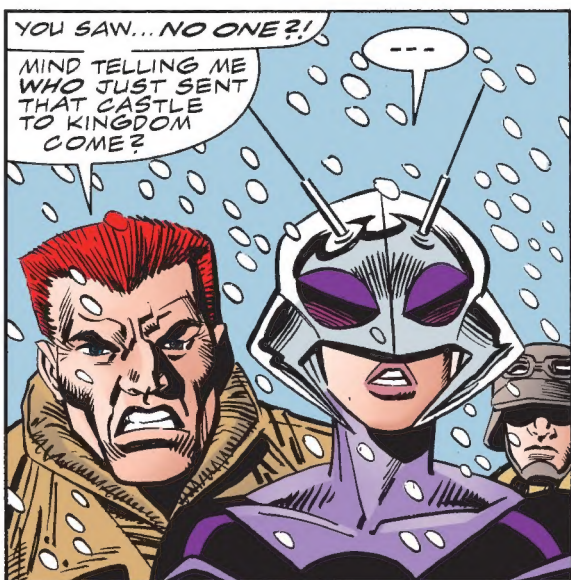














*Shadowcat*

